

Two Killed, Scores Hurt As Blasts Fire Warehouse

Fireman Crushed Under Copping, Another Dies on Engine During All-Day Battle With Flames

Trace Explosions to Stored Magnesium

Many Are Driven From Homes; 3 Boroughs Send Apparatus; Search Debris All Night for Victims

A case of magnesium powder being carried from the warehouse of the Manufacturers' Transit Company, Inc., 10 to 14 Jane Street, and extending through the block to 245 to 251 West Twelfth Street, started the fire which resulted in the death yesterday of two firemen and the injury of scores of others. The cause of the conflagration was announced last night by District Attorney Banton after a conference with the Fire Commissioner, the Fire Marshal and the police. It was learned that thirty-eight cases of magnesium had been taken into the warehouse since March 3. Other cases were ignited by the heat and several explosions followed. Mr. Banton may present the case to the grand jury to-day.

Lieutenant John J. Schoppmeyer, of Engine 13, was killed as he tried to enter the West Twelfth Street entrance of the building. An explosion bowled him over and he was pinned beneath a heavy piece of stone coping. Fireman James H. Malone, of Engine Company 219, Brooklyn, was killed when an engine on which he was riding while on the way to the scene of the fire struck a fire engine which was called to Manhattan street a curbstone at Johnson Street and Flatbush Avenue Extension, Brooklyn.

Firemen Seriously Injured

The seriously injured are: Engine 219; internal injuries; Brooklyn Hospital. Chapman, Edward, fireman, Truck 3; eyes injured; Red Cross station. Doherty, Thomas F., fireman, Hook and Ladder 3; both legs fractured; St. Vincent's Hospital. McCaffery, Michael F., lieutenant, Hook and Ladder 3; fractured left wrist and hand; St. Vincent's Hospital. O'Brien, James J., fireman, Engine 31; eyes and nose injured; St. Vincent's Hospital. O'Neill, John M., fireman, Hook and Ladder 30; smoke; St. Vincent's Hospital. Reynolds, Peter, fireman, Engine 19; eyes burned by chemicals; Bellevue Hospital.

Borough Call Sounded

Punctuated by explosions which sent windows, bricks, brick packing cases and coping hurtling through the air the fire quickly spread throughout the entire seven stories of the structure. The recurring explosions, which started about 8:30 o'clock and continued until almost noon, caused presumably by the chemicals, the intense heat and heavy black smoke all added to the difficulties of the firemen who responded to the five alarms sent for Manhattan apparatus and the borough call, which brought five additional gasoline pumping engines from Brooklyn.

Woman Reports Three Buried

Mary O'Toole, who lives on the top floor of 105 Greenwich Avenue, reported that she saw at least three firemen carried down by the explosion. Chief Joseph Martin and practically every fire captain present at the blaze denied the report. Commissioner Drennan said that a check had been made and that all firemen had been accounted for. Still, in the belief that the persons blown into the debris might have been spectators, every channel of verification was traversed without confirming the report.

German Defense Measure Made Law by Reichstag

Legislation Expected to Place Future of Republic Beyond Its Political Foes

BERLIN, July 18 (By The Associated Press).—The chamber of the Reichstag, which three weeks ago was the scene of elaborate funeral ceremonies for Dr. Walter Rathenau, witnessed to-day the parliamentary ceremony which gave the constitutionality of the law which was passed by the Reichstag and which is calculated to place the future of the young German Republic beyond the physical reach of its political foes.

Forty Raiders Strive to Make Atlantic City Dry as Sands

Scouts Work Ten Days, Then Swoop Down on Resort, Seizing \$50,000 Liquor; Fourteen New York City Places Visited by Agents

ATLANTIC CITY, July 18.—The long-threatened drive to rid this resort of liquor and liquor sellers is under way. It began this afternoon at a signal from Sam H. Cone, Federal enforcement agent for the state, seated at a glass-topped desk in the Union National Bank Building, and when the raiders called it a day they had confiscated more than \$50,000 worth of liquor and had unseathed numerous secret passageways, false doors and hidden panels.

During the Elks' convention last week it was reported that the resort was to be invaded by prohibition agents, but this warning was apparently disregarded, and as a result many liquor dealers were caught red-handed.

Nearly two score of agents participated in to-day's raids, and the same two score will be on hand for raids tomorrow and the day after. Numerous restaurants and seemingly harmless ice cream parlors were visited. The rum roundup seemed to be as much of a surprise to local and county authorities as it was to the liquor dealers.

It was conducted on orders from Washington. Atlantic City had attracted the personal attention of Prohibition Commissioner Roy A. Haynes, who made a trip to the shore.

Haynes was astounded at conditions in the resort, said Chief Cone to-night. "He has been in receipt of scores of letters begging for help from decent elements in the city," State Director Cone said. "I have also received hundreds of communications and there was a general insistence for real action. The reason there has been a delay was because our attention was held along the coast."

Two Agents Transferred

With the developments to-day it is regarded as significant that several Agents William H. Brinton and Cornelius Scott were removed from Atlantic City to North Jersey several weeks ago.

The Federal men served thirty-six search and seizure warrants and arrested alleged proprietors and employees in the places raided. The work will continue until "Atlantic City is as clean as her sands," promised Chief Cone. The Boardwalk's gilded palaces (Continued on page thirteen)

State Committee Indorses Miller For 2d Term

Party Leaders Virtually Call on Governor to Accept a Renomination; Harding Administration Approved

Honor Aldridge's Memory

Convention, With Root as Temporary Chairman, to Meet in Albany Sept. 27

The Republican State Committee, at a largely attended meeting yesterday afternoon at the National Republican Club, praised Governor Nathan L. Miller as "the leading statesman of the day" and virtually called on him to accept a renomination; called the state convention to meet in Albany on September 27, with former Senator Elihu Root as its temporary chairman; indorsed the Harding administration and adopted eulogistic resolutions in honor of the late George W. Aldridge, of Rochester, Collector of the Port.

While Senator Calder was not specifically indorsed, the Senator and his Brooklyn friends said they were satisfied with the general indorsement of the Harding administration and the Republican Congresses.

Charles H. Duell, treasurer of the State Committee, assigned, and Chairman George A. Glynn was authorized to appoint a substitute.

Speaker H. Edmund Machold, of Jefferson County, offered the resolution indorsing Governor Miller, as follows: "The administration of Governor Nathan L. Miller has been not only wise, economical and efficient, but progressive as well. His quiet dignity, judicial temperament and executive qualities have fitted him for the great responsibilities of his office. His promises to the people of this state have been fulfilled to the letter. Stanch in principle, fearless in action, given a fore-sighted and deep knowledge of the men, we recognize in him the leading statesman of the day."

"We commend his administration in detail and in its entirety, and we pledge to the people of the state a continuance of the policies inaugurated during his administration."

Storm Floods City, Ties Up Two Subways

Nearly 2 1/2-Inch Rainfall in Three Hours; Water Pours Into West Side Tubes, Stalling Train

Brooklyn Line Also Put Out of Service

Bolt Near Babylon Costs One Man a Leg; Blast Injures Six Firemen

The season's heaviest rainstorm lashed the city last night, flooding the tubes of the West Side subway and causing a tie-up of two hours between Chambers Street and Times Square. Water rushed through the street gratings and flowed in torrents down the stairways. Traffic was blocked for a short time on the Fourth Avenue line in Brooklyn because of flooded tracks. Nearly two and a half inches of rain fell within three hours.

The tie-up began soon after 8 o'clock. Traffic on the northbound local tracks was resumed at 10:15, and on the northbound express tracks at 10:27, according to officials of the Interborough. Traffic on the southbound local tracks was resumed at 10:27.

The downpour caused the mercury to drop nearly seventeen degrees. The lowest temperature of the day—68 degrees—was recorded at 7 o'clock, when the storm was at its height. At 3:30 o'clock the mercury hovered at the 85-degree mark. The temperature had risen from 68 degrees to 72 at 10:30 o'clock last night.

Station Island Inundated

The heaviest damage done by the storm was on Staten Island. Countless sewers were overflowed and many houses stocked with merchandise inundated. Damage was estimated at \$75,000.

One man's leg was blown off and six firemen were injured, one probably fatally, when lightning struck the feed house at the Hiram's farm, near Babylon, L. I. The injuries were caused by an explosion of gasoline in a subterranean building. The explosion occurred when a fireman, who was visiting the farm, was endeavoring to extinguish the fire and was in the feed house when the explosion occurred. He was blown through a door and his right leg severed. He was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital in a critical state from loss of blood.

The injured firemen are William Evans, of the Hiram's farm, William Albright, of the Hiram's farm, and John Graff. Albright's condition was said at the hospital last night to be serious. The others will recover. All are employees of Babylon Hook and Ladder Company No. 1.

When the storm was at its height lightning shattered a heavy brick column atop a public school No. 9 at West End Avenue and Hiram's Street. A shower of brick and timber fragments fell to the street, and part of the debris tore a jagged hole in the roof of the building. No one was in the school at the time.

When the trains became stalled passengers sweltered in the crowded cars for a time, but finally trains were run through the flooded sections. Men were walking from car to car until they reached the platform at the nearest station.

A wrecking crew with pumps was rushed to the tubes after Interborough officials had been notified of the condition of the tracks by the motorman of the first train to swash its way through the flooded section. It was then determined that the shuttle service in operation between Chambers Street and Houston Street on the northbound tracks and between Times Square and Fourteenth Street on the southbound tracks.

Crash at Times Square

Police reserves from downtown precincts were sent to local stations between Chambers and Fourteenth Street and assisted in keeping the platforms as free from congestion as possible. The greatest congestion occurred at Times Square station, when homeward-bound New Yorkers, informed that the West Side line was tied up, began surging through the underground maze to board the shuttle trains for Grand Central and continue the trip northward via the East Side subway.

Chief Engineer Ridgeway of the Transit Commission said that a survey would be put under way to-day to determine the depth of the flood. Officials of Houston Street are adequate. "If I find that they are not," he said, "I will make such recommendations as will, in my opinion, remedy them."

The Flatbush section of Brooklyn suffered considerably from the storm. Water in great volume swept into hundreds of cellars, and in some of them reached a depth of six feet. Overflowed sewers in the section buried streets and sidewalks under three feet of water. In East Seventeenth Street, between Newkirk and Foster avenues, Flatbush, the water rose so high that eight automobiles were put out of commission and temporarily abandoned.

The greatest damage done by the storm on Staten Island was at Stapleton, where the water rose so high that many residents described the rain as the heaviest the island had experienced in twenty years. One person was killed and five overpowered by the heat and near the city yesterday.

Harding Calls on States To Protect Mines; U. S. Will Act if They Fail

President's Letter to Governors

WASHINGTON, July 18.—President Harding's telegram to the governors of coal producing states, asking their co-operation in reopening the mines, said:

The proposal of the Federal government to the United Mine Workers and the various coal operators whose mines are under suspension, to submit all questions in dispute to a national coal commission for arbitration, has been declined. The mine workers declined as a body. The majority of the bituminous operators pledged unqualified acceptance. The anthracite operators filed unqualified acceptance. A minority of the bituminous operators accepted the principle of arbitration, but made specifications which could not be considered. I had proposed that the operators and mine workers in dispute should immediately resume coal production under the wage scales and working conditions which prevailed at the time of the strike on last April 1; that every question in dispute should go to a national commission to be composed of three representatives of the mine workers, three representatives of the operators and five representatives of the American people. It was proposed to make the commission a practical authority on all disputes until next March, and meanwhile the commission was to inaugurate a searching inquiry into the causes of the strike.

Our present duty is to guarantee security in the exercise of these rights, security in all lawful operations, and afford a safe opportunity for that production and distribution demanded by the necessities of the American people.

United States Not Party to Dispute

There has been no government assumption of a part in the dispute between organized workers and organized employers. I did offer the only available agency I know of to effect a settlement, and these good offices have not availed.

It becomes necessary, therefore, in the name of common welfare, to invite protection in the fulfillment of that obligation, which attaches to an American industry engaged in providing any public necessity and to afford security to all men alike who are ready and willing to work and receive the fruits of their labor. No cause is so important as that of common welfare and there must be the suppression of every unlawful hindrance to the service of that cause. To the task of lawful protection and the maintenance of order the Federal government pledges to you every assistance at its command.

No Other Course Left

The failure to secure the acceptance of this proposal for a voluntary adjustment left me no other course but to invite the mine operators to an American industry engaged in providing any public necessity and to afford security to all men alike who are ready and willing to work and receive the fruits of their labor. No cause is so important as that of common welfare and there must be the suppression of every unlawful hindrance to the service of that cause. To the task of lawful protection and the maintenance of order the Federal government pledges to you every assistance at its command.

WARREN G. HARDING.

Fairs to Alter Trade Methods Of Merchants

Business Associations Give Out Plan for Big Buying Expositions in New York Like Those of Europeans

A decided innovation in American methods of doing business was announced yesterday by the Merchants Association of New York, in co-operation with the National Retail Dry Goods Association and the National Garment Retailers' Association. The change consists in bringing the buyer, the seller and his goods together in a permanent series of "fairs" in New York.

The announcement of this new plan was made by President Lewis E. Pierson, of the Merchants Association, at a luncheon given by the association yesterday for about seventy-five newspaper representatives. The first "National Merchandise Fair" will be held in the Grand Central Palace and the 71st Regiment Armory from August 7 to 26, with the exception of Saturdays and Sundays. It will be a strictly business affair, unlike the usual county fair "exposition," and the mere sightseeing general public will not be admitted.

The traveling salesman is not going to be made obsolete by this new plan. Europe with all its fairs needs him and has no wish to get along without him. The idea is not to supersede him, but to help him. His co-operation will be considerably easier for the President Pierson said that the fair next month is expected to draw thousands of department store, dry goods and specialty shop buyers to this city.

President Pierson said that the fair next month is expected to draw thousands of department store, dry goods and specialty shop buyers to this city. It will be the start of a series of such events which the Retail Dry Goods and Garment Retailers' associations are to hold in the future.

Bill's Groundhogs Go To Death, Seeing Red

Break Their Necks in Sneezing To Death on Pepper After Defying All Traps

Haverhill, Mass., July 18 (Via Wire).—Take it from Farmer Bill Evans, you've got to have pep, and if you can't get it from one way you can get it from another. And believe it or not, says Bill, he got eight woodchucks with pep. The chucks were raising particular cain on Bill's farm out on the Whittier Road, and they were cain woodchucks, too—sneezing and coughing and no choice brands of dandy poison. And Bill was at his wit's end—for a time.

Then he conceived an idea and trekked for the pepper box. Liberally Farmer Bill peppered the immediate vicinity of the entrance to each woodchuck hole he could find. Result—eight woodchucks lying outside their homes the next morning with their necks broken.

They had sneezed themselves to death, according to Farmer Bill. Take it or leave it, believe it or not, but the holes are there to prove the story.

Rail Peace by Saturday, Hope Of Negotiators

Grable Outwits Radicals in Ranks of Maintenance Union and Pushes Terms for Separate Settlement

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

CHICAGO, July 18.—Plans for "peace by Saturday" in the strike of railroad shopmen gained fresh impetus by several developments to-day, all tending to aid the United States Railroad Labor Board in its efforts to effect a rapid settlement.

E. F. Grable, president of the 400,000 maintenance of way workers, dealt a smashing blow to the efforts of radicals and others to get the maintenance men to join the strike when he appeared before the Labor Board, announced that progress has been made in the program undertaken separate adjustments for his men with the various roads and put forth one such dispute brought before the board, concerning the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, as "the first of many disputed submissions on these subjects which the board will receive."

Hooper Assures Early Hearing

Mr. Grable was assured by Ben W. Hooper, chairman of the board, that this case would get preference and probably would be heard by July 25.

"Mr. Grable," the chairman added, "has lived up to the provisions of the transportation act so far as the fullest consideration this body can give him."

Mr. Grable indicated that Senator Cummins' Senate hearings to amend the transportation act so that all railroad employees "would be guaranteed a living wage" was a step toward meeting objections raised at the beginning of the strike by B. M. Jewell, head of the shopmen, that the Labor Board had failed to make the living wage the basis for its decisions. The plans of Senator Cummins, it is believed, will make it considerably easier for Mr. Jewell to express the view that he is not averse to a settlement.

Earlier in the day Mr. Grable and Mr. Jewell held a long conference, the chief subject of which was thought to have been a message to the strike leader from President Harding, who recently discussed the situation with Mr. Grable. Neither the text nor the tenor of this communication was revealed, but it was believed to have had a bearing on the plans for a settlement.

Grable Reviews Situation

Later in the day Mr. Grable, in discussing the strike situation generally, said: "The only real obstacle I can see now in the way of settlement is the fact that the hardboiled heads of three or four of the railroads object to restoring seniority rights to the strikers."

This on investigation, was found to be true. However, it was reported to-night that some of the other roads were bringing strong pressure to bear on the managements in holding out on the basis that hard-headedness may be all right in its place, but that it should not be permitted to interfere with the public welfare. Confidence was expressed that this difficulty would be overcome.

After the conference between Mr. Grable and Mr. Jewell, the latter held (Continued on next page)

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U. S. Favorable Trade Balance Off 2 Billions

WASHINGTON, July 18.—America's foreign trade for the fiscal year ended June 30 resulted in a favorable trade balance of \$1,162,000,000 for Year Ended June 30; Exports \$3,770,000,000

Attorney Ships in Fo'e's le To Obtain Hints on Sea Law

William Mahler, an attorney of 60 Wall Street, will ship to-day on the United States Shipping Board steamship Alabama to take a post graduate course in the fo'e's le.

German Defense Measure Made Law by Reichstag

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